

## BIG BATTLE TO DECIDE THE FATE OF NATAL IS BEGUN.

By the Journal's Special Commissioner with the British Forces in Natal.

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**LADYSMITH, Natal, Oct. 18.**—The great battle for the possession of the "Neck of Natal" was begun at noon to-day when the British outposts met the vanguard of the Boers who are marching to attack this city on three sides.

The fighting to-day has been the preliminary skirmishing, but there were casualties on both sides. The general engagement between the 12,000 British with 46 guns, all under General White, and the Boers in greatly superior numbers and now commanded by General Joubert in person, will in all probability follow to-day.

OFFERS TO SELL OUT  
AGUINALDO AND  
HIS ARMY.

Pio Del Pilar Says He Will "Break Up the Revolt" and Deliver the Leaders to General Otis for \$500,000.

Proposes a Sham Battle, After Which There Would Be a Surrender—Fixes Prices for Other Betrayals.

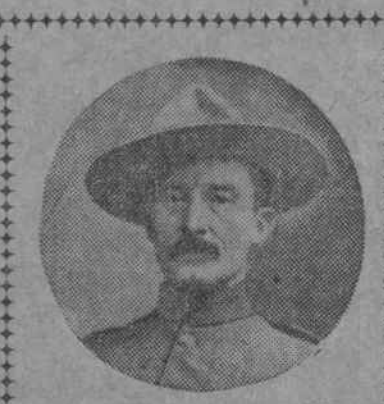
Talk of an Audacious Plan to Invade Manila and Capture Our Commander—Spanish Conspirators Killed by Rebels

Manila, Oct. 18.—S. S. M. General Otis has received messages purporting to come from the insurgent general, Pio del Pilar, offering to sell out his army and to deliver Aguinaldo into the hands of the Americans. Although he is not satisfied that this offer is authentic, it is not improbable. The policy of General Otis is firmly set against buying any surrenders.

Pio del Pilar offers for the sum of \$50,000 to refrain from attacking Manila with his army; for the sum of \$250,000 he offers to surrender his army after a sham battle, both sides firing into the air, and for the sum of \$500,000, he says, he will procure the overthrow of the insurrection and the capture of Aguinaldo, Paterno and the other leaders.

In the course of the communication he refers to Aguinaldo in contemptuous terms. Reports are being received from the districts occupied by the enemy that the Filipinos believe that Pio del Pilar has an audacious plan to break through the American lines into Manila and to seize General Otis and the Archbishop. Possibly these rumors were started with an idea of leading him to make a deal with the Americans.

It is unnecessary to say that the Americans would welcome an attack of that sort. There has been much speculation of late regarding the whereabouts of Pio del Pilar. The recent attack at La Loma is credited to his men. It is believed that he is now in the vicinity of San Mateo Valley with a force of from 1,500 to 2,000 men. His former Spanish soldiers, who were captured by the Filipinos, and for a time acted as officers and members of a Filipino artillery regiment located in the vicinity of

BADEN-POWELL'S 600 HEROES STILL  
HOLD MAFEKING AGAINST VAST ODDS.

Colonel R. S. S. Baden-Powell. In his fine war record lies the British hope that Mafeking will withstand the Boer investment. This brave commander has about 2,000 men with which to hold the town.

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**CAPE TOWN, October 18.**—Not one word has been received from British sources as to the condition or the fate of Colonel Baden-Powell and his heroic 600 defenders of Mafeking.

All the news that has reached here has come from Pretoria and other Boer sources. It is all twenty-four hours delayed and is generally of a gloomy character.

From these sources it is learned that the Boer Krupp batteries are now covering the town and that military engineers can be observed laying a temporary railroad, which will probably be used in armored train defense by the garrison.

General Cronje on Tuesday, after warning the women and children to leave Mafeking, opened fire upon the town with cannon. No response was made.

After a few shots were fired a white flag was hoisted over the fort at Mafeking.

A Boer party bearing a flag of truce was sent to inquire whether the town surrendered. No definite reply was received.

The Boer messenger was detained for six hours and then released.

The Boers continued to close in upon Mafeking and to destroy the railway north and south of the town.

Pretoria dispatches also say that the Boers have gone northward to head off

All Britain Fears That the Siege Will End in Another Calamity Like That of Gordon at Khartoum—The Flower of the British Nobility is Represented by the Officers of the Brave Little Band.

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**LONDON, Oct. 19.**—The war situation in South Africa, as it appears from the dispatches received up to 4 o'clock this morning, is this:

At Mafeking Colonel Baden-Powell and his brave 600 are holding out against the vastly superior force of the Boers under General Cronje, in spite of the fact that a bombardment of the town has begun and the water supply, except for a few wells in the town, has been cut off.

At Kimberley Cecil Rhodes and the British are practically surrounded and cut off from communication, and no word has come from the besieged. At Ladysmith the great battle for the possession of the "Neck of Natal" has begun. Skirmishing has been proceeding since noon yesterday at Acton Homes, with the Free State Boers advancing through Tintwa Pass; at Bester's Station with the Free Staters from Van Rensburg's Pass, and near Camp Glencoe, with the Transvaal Boers under General Joubert, who is advancing with the army which captured Newcastle. The general engagement will probably begin to-day.

Therefore, if the Boers had any success it is bound soon to be known.

As foreshadowed yesterday, they have succeeded in cutting off the water supply at Mafeking, but it is said that there are sufficient wells in the town to supply the inhabitants.

Advices from Pretoria, summarizing the reports to the Transvaal Government from General Cronje, in command at the chief laager on the west side, announce that the Marico and Rustenburg Commandos, with field telegraph, occupied Burman's Drift, near the outskirts of Mafeking, on Monday and took possession of a fountain in the neighborhood, thus cutting off the water supply of the town. The Boer artillery then began shelling, but the British did not reply.

Another dispatch from Pretoria says that the Burgers have occupied Tannus, south of Mafeking, and Lobatse, to the northward, without opposition.

Among the prisoners captured at Lobatse was the Rev. Adrian Hofmeyr. He has since been released.

A dispatch from Durban, Natal, says that refugees who arrived there Tuesday from Pretoria declare that the Boers have been ordered to evacuate a Boer camp at Mafeking, eight Burgers being killed and a number wounded.

(By the Associated Press.)

**LADYSMITH, Oct. 18.**—An official note published today says:

"A Free State commando yesterday commenced actual hostilities. The Free State has thus taken upon itself the responsibility of beginning war, and cannot hereafter pretend to be the aggressor."

The British forces came into contact with the enemy in the neighborhood of Bester's Station, about sixteen miles out, this morning. The firing began about 1 o'clock.

The British cavalry patrols are the forces engaged in the action at Acton Homes and Bester's Station. Since midday the actions have been on and are still in progress. Several casualties have been reported.

The British cavalry patrols are expected to fight to-morrow.

It is reported here that dysentery and diarrhoea are prevalent in General Cronje's command.

Pretoria, Oct. 17 (Delayed in transmission).—Commandant-General Joubert has arrived at Newcastle, Natal. He found only a hundred men there when he entered the town.

General Jan H. M. Kock, second in command of the Boer forces, is still at Ingogo. He has cannon commanding Bothas and Linne passes, and has cut the railway between Dundee and De Jaager's Drift.

Several Transvaal commandos are moving toward the Biggarsberg mountains, to the south of Glencoe.

**Camp Glencoe, Natal, Oct. 18, 2 p. m.**—Boer scouts have been sighted at Mafeking. Scouts, even in the British camp, and an engagement is imminent.

**LONDON, Oct. 18.**—A dispatch from Ladysmith says that a letter has been brought to the British pickets by Boer cyclists bearing a white flag, signed by the Newcastle Magistrate, and signed by the Boer commander, General Joubert, stating that the British who remain in Newcastle are all well.

With regard to the Boer's plan, it appears that the Cape railway officials destroyed the bridge on their line on the Orange Free State side, and then abandoned the station.

The Orange Free State troops have destroyed the Modder River bridge without opposition.

The War Office has issued the following statement:

"News has been received from General Sir George Stewart, White, the general commanding in Natal, that the anticipated movement of Boer forces across the Drakensberg, already reported from several quarters, was likely to be continued on October 17, in which case some of them might be expected to arrive at Bannet Bank that night and probably to come into contact with our cavalry between Ladysmith and the Passes of the Drakensberg."

"On the Buffalo River the Boers, from Verbeke, are moving toward Van's and Rooke's Drifts."

The Ladysmith dispatch refers to the Free State forces advancing through Van Rensburg's Pass to Bester's Station, and the Free Staters invading over the Tintwa Pass to Acton Homes.

By the Journal's Special Commissioner with the British Forces in Natal.

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**LADYSMITH, Oct. 18.**—Skirmishing has been going on since 10 o'clock this morning between the Free Staters and the British cavalry near Acton Homes, and also at Bester's Station, sixteen miles southeast of Ladysmith.

British supporters have been sent forward, and a general action is expected to-morrow.

The Free State burghers have at last moved out from their strong position in the Drakensberg mountains, aiming to cut off Ladysmith on the south. A large force came down from Tintwa Pass early this morning, and encountered the British cavalry patrol which had been sent sixteen miles from the camp.

The Boers first used field artillery, but did no damage. The firing continued most of the day in spasmodic skirmishes, with a few casualties on each side.

The object of the Boer advance was either a feint to draw out the British troops or a prelude to a general advance on Ladysmith.

General Joubert has assumed command of the Transvaal Boers north of here, and they are slowly marching on Glencoe. The advance patrols are in touch there.

General Joubert plans to enclose the British on the north and east, and the Free Staters will do the same on the west and south.



General Cronje, Leader of the Attacking Boers.

This Boer commander is besieging Mafeking with a force of about 4,000. On Monday last he warned the women and children of the town to leave and soon after began shelling.

leased from the Barberton Jail, Transvaal, have been put over the Portuguese border, the last of the leading Randers and managers of the Gold Fields, and of the Reinstein, Robinson and Champ d'Or mines, together with a body of engineers, arrived here today. They report that they were searched for gold at the frontier by the Boers.

**OOM PAUL IS WELL, DESPITE THE STRAIN.**

Pretoria, Oct. 17 (Delayed in transmission).—In spite of the severe strain the health of President Kruger continues good. The first batch of military prisoners is expected here this evening.

**BUFFALO BILL'S IRISH LANCERS RECALLED.**

Bridgeport, Conn., Oct. 18.—That the preparations the British Government is making for the Transvaal crisis are not wanting in completeness is evidenced by the hurried departure from here for Liverpool of the troop of Irish lancers which has been with Buffalo Bill's Wild West show during the season. The troops were ordered to report for duty in South Africa.

They are members of the reserves. They have been under the tutelage of the Indians and Osageans, and are a body of the finest riders in the world.

They were loaned by the British Government to Buffalo Bill's show on condition that they might be recalled at any time.

**British Ships Called Home.**

Boston, Oct. 18.—The announcement was made here to-day that the British Government has chartered the Dominion line

company, with some natives. On July 16 the Transvaal expedition, under Lieutenant-Colonel Klobb, was responsible for the massacre. He told his comrades, on his return, what he had done, and declared that he intended to revolt and to form an independent State.

"Only Captain Chanoine decided to accompany him, with some natives. On July 16 the Transvaal expedition, under Lieutenant-Colonel Klobb, was responsible for the massacre. He told his comrades, on his return, what he had done, and declared that he intended to revolt and to form an independent State."

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A communique service was held this morning in honor of Lieutenant-Colonel Klobb, who was killed in action. President Loubet and all the members of the

Cabinet were represented. Mme. Loubet was present.

Captains Voulet and Chanoine, who are reported killed by their own men, were the chief officers of an exploring expedition sent by the French Government to Lake Tchad. Reports of a series of frightful outrages having reached France, Lieutenant-Colonel Klobb was dispatched in command of a mission, with orders to arrest the officers on charges of cruelty and insubordination, should the reports prove true.

The mission arrived at Doudahou on June 23. They then learned from the natives that Captain Voulet was only three days' march ahead of them. Colonel Klobb sent four sharpshooters to Voulet, begging him to wait for him.

Voulet induced his men to fight with him against the Klobb mission. When Klobb and his men approached, Voulet ordered his men to attack, he himself keeping "up in the rear." A general massacre followed, though Colonel Klobb warned them not to shoot, displaying the French flag. Colonel Klobb was killed and Lieutenant Meynier seriously wounded.

**New East African Coast Line.**

The Commercial Cable Company has issued the following notice: "We are advised that a regular steam ship service has been arranged between Lourenco Marques and Beira, East Africa. The first boat will leave this evening, the next on Saturday at daylight and the third at noon next Monday."

**British Censor on Duty at Aden.**

London, Oct. 18.—All messages to and from South Africa are subjected to scrutiny at Aden.

**ANDRADE MUST ACCEPT INSURGENTS' CONDITIONS.**

Venezuelan President Now Abandoned by All His Supporters.

Caracas, Venezuela, Oct. 18.—Senator Matos, the Peace Boyer, bringing an ultimatum from the insurgent commander, General Cipriano Castro, returned to Caracas to-day from Valencia, to meet President Andrade, who is expected to give an answer in the course of the day.

President Andrade cannot do otherwise than accept the conditions imposed by General Castro, as he is virtually abandoned by all his supporters. Notwithstanding this, he still maintains that it may be possible to transfer the seat of government to Maracaybo, and to continue the fight.

The situation here is extremely critical. A French war ship is expected to-morrow.

**Bubonic Plague Raging at Santos.**

Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 18.—The statement that the bubonic plague is raging at Santos is officially confirmed.

**JOURNAL "WANT" ADVTS.**

This Morning

One hundred and thirty persons just re-



Mafeking's Defenders, the Fifth Dragoon Guards.

Six hundred of these trained English fighters, inspired by their heroic commander, Colonel Baden-Powell, are holding the town against an attacking force of 6,000 Boers. Already they have made one sortie, but were greatly outnumbered and forced to fall back upon the town again.

Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 18.—The plot was discovered by the Portuguese. The plot was discovered by the Portuguese. The plot was discovered by the Portuguese.

It appears that, when the surrender was determined upon, the Spaniards delegated one of their number to proceed to Manila and to propose to General Otis to surrender, after a prearranged mock battle, about twelve pieces, including Krupp and Nordenfolt rapid-fire guns, well supplied with ammunition from the Lipa Powder Factory, in exchange for certain sums to be paid the Spaniards, who were to be repatriated and carrying arms and baggage to Spain.

The delegate left Santa Rosa and, accompanied by three Filipinos, entered the American lines at Calamba. The Filipinos did not proceed far, deciding to await his return at a given time. As the delegate was detained in Manila longer than he had expected, they grew suspicious and returned to Santa Rosa. The plot was then revealed and the remaining Spaniards were attacked.

The gunboat Napiden, coasting near Santa Rosa, perceived two men on the beach hurriedly embarking in a canoe and pushing out toward them. She took them on board, and they reported that the Filipinos, on discovering the plot to surrender the artillery, had cut the throats of seven of their Spanish companions, and that they themselves had barely escaped with their lives. The three Spaniards are now hiding in Manila, fearing Filipino vengeance.

General Otis had declined their offer through the delegate to surrender the artillery for money, but he promises to send the three to Spain.

The British force approaching in that direction. This means Colonel Plumer, who is on the northern border, going to the relief of Mafeking.

Biera dispatches dated Saturday say the Boers were repulsed at Labatati station. This was doubtless in a fight with Plumer, who has 600 men.

It is the anxious hope of all here that Plumer has succeeded in reaching Mafeking.

(By the Associated Press.)

Lorenzo Marques, Oct. 18.—The Volksstem, the Boer official organ at Pretoria, gives the following account of the occupation of the British camp at Ramathlabama, just north of Mafeking:

"The British camp at Ramathlabama has been captured and sacked by General Cronje after severe fighting. Many burghers were killed or wounded. The British loss is not known."